

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendments and following remarks are submitted in accordance with a Request for Continued Examination filed on even date and in response to the Final Official Action of the Examiner mailed on March 10, 2005. This amendment is deemed to fully respond to all objections and rejections of the Examiner. Thus, claims 1-20, being all pending claims, are now expected to be in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to claim 4. In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 4 in accordance with the Examiner's explanation of his objection.

The remaining issue is that all pending claims stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. as unpatentable over various combinations of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,588, issued to Gebauer (hereinafter referred to as "Gebauer"), U.S. Patent No. 5,845,267, issued to Ronen (hereinafter referred to as "Ronen"), U.S. Patent No. 6,397,220, issued to Deisinger et al (hereinafter referred to as "Deisinger"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,453,356, issued to Sheard et al (hereinafter referred to as "Sheard"). In response thereto, all claims have been amended above.

In Applicants' previous responses to the pending prior art rejections, various arguments have been made. Whereas the

Examiner has not found these arguments to be compelling, he has in the pending official action presented his reasoning in a most helpful way. Based upon this explanation, it appears that the Examiner and Applicants differ in their respective opinions concerning the extent to which the limitation, "generic gateway", is limiting of the pending claims. The Examiner states:

Further, on page 18, lines 5-16, applicant argues that "Applicants' [generic gateway], on the other hand, accommodate[s] these differing formats through the use of a single generic gateway". However, this feature (which appears to define the invention) is not found in the independent claim being discussed.

Therefore, Applicants have herewith amended all pending claims to further highlight the structure, operation, and environment associated with the claimed "generic gateway".

Both the Examiner and Applicants have extensively treated each of the claims individually. Furthermore, both the Examiner and Applicants have presented their respective positions regarding MPEP 2143, MPEP 2144, and other matters of controlling law. Therefore, it seems unnecessary to repeat these disagreements until the Examiner and Applicants have reached agreement with regard to what the Examiner characterizes as "this feature....which appears to define the invention". At such time as agreement is reached, it seems appropriate to renew focus upon the dependent claims which Applicants deem patentably distinct from one another.

Having thus responded to each objection and ground of rejection, Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and allowance of claims 1-20, being the only pending claims.


Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0620.

Respectfully submitted,

Joey L. Erickson et al.

By their attorney,

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The PTO did ~~not~~ receive the following
listed item(s) as it